

position.

7. (Cancel).

8. (Currently amended) An improved boat hook and line handling device for use in positioning a docking line comprising an elongated boat hook shaft and an attachment removably connected about said shaft by friction fit, a clip having an elongated body with a first end and a second end, said clip rigidly oriented at an intersecting angle to said boat hook shaft with said first end displaced from said boat hook shaft, said second end of said clip rigidly connected to ~~an~~ said attachment, said attachment encircling said shaft whereby said clip facilitates positioning of a docking line by maintaining a line loop sized to encircle a piling.

Claims 9 - 10 (Cancel).

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 remain in this application.

Claims 5 and renumbered claims 9-10 have been canceled.

In response to the Office Action of May 14, 2004, Applicant

requests re-examination and reconsideration of this application for patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 132.

Objections to the Claims

The mis-numbered claims, now renumbered 9 and 10, have been canceled.

Rejections under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 10 stand rejected as anticipated by Reed. Claim 10 has been canceled. In order to anticipate the claims, the reference must show every feature recited in the claims. The Reed patent does not teach a semi-circular fastening of a clip to a conventional boat hook. The Reed device adds a complete boat hook to the end of a pole by telescoping the boat hook head into the tubular pole. In contrast, the applicant's concept is to have a pocket tool, in the form of the claimed clip, which can be quickly fitted onto a conventional boat hook.

With regard to amended claim 6, Reed does not have a pop-out clip that operates as the inner and outer tubes are telescoped.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

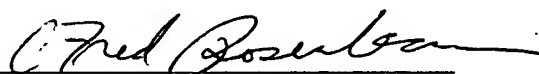
Claims 4, 5, 8 and 9 stand rejected as obvious in view of Reed and Kolodziej. Claims 5 and 9 have been canceled. Reed teaches bolting the head of the boat hook through the shaft of a pole which is a permanent connection. Or, at least, a connection that requires tools to unfasten. Kolodziej teaches bolting the line

holding device around the shaft of a pole which also requires tools to disassemble. Neither reference teaches the concept of providing a clip that can be manually affixed to one conventional boat hook and quickly removed for use on another conventional boat hook. Therefore, the combination of the references cannot teach one of ordinary skill in the art to fabricate something that neither shows.

SUMMARY

In light of the foregoing remarks and amendment to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner will now find the claims of the application allowable. Favorable reconsideration of the application is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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